AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) Method for controlling a drink preparation machine for preparing a multiple number of different drink units on a hot-water basis, the method comprising:

withdrawing hot water for the multiple number of different drink units from a common hot water source,

monitoring the performance status of the hot water source, and

controlling the hot water withdrawal by

enabling the hot water withdrawal for all of the multiple number of different drink units at a predetermined full performance status of the hot water source,

blocking the hot water withdrawal for all of the multiple number of different drink units at a predetermined zero performance status of the hot water source and,

blocking the hot water withdrawal for at least one predetermined drink unit of the multiple number of different drink units and enabling the hot water withdrawal for at least one predetermined drink unit of the multiple number of different drink units at a predetermined partial performance status of the hot water source.

2. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein blocking the hot water withdrawal for at least one predetermined drink unit occurs if the performance status falls below a threshold value.

3. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the full performance status comprises a performance range.

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 3, wherein the partial performance status comprises at least one performance range.

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, further comprising establishing a performance withdrawal value for each of the multiple number of different drink units, and deducting this performance withdrawal value from the performance status with each withdrawal.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, further comprising heating up the hot water synchronously with the withdrawal.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, further comprising determining the performance status of the hot water source prior to controlling the hot water withdrawal.

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 7, wherein determining the performance status of the hot water source comprises determining a level of the water in a boiler.

9. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 7, wherein determining the performance status of the hot water source comprises determining the temperature of the water in the hot water source.